

# ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST TREATING FUELS USING STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING



# Stewardship Authorities

- The Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2003 authorized the U.S. Forest Service (USDA) and the Bureau of Land Management (USDI) to undertake, for a period of 10 years, "stewardship end results contracting projects."
- This legislation extended a concept that has been successfully tested by the Forest Service.
- Supports the Healthy Forests Initiative - can do more work in the WUI and on environmental restoration projects.
- Proposals must be approved by the Regional Forester.
- The 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment guides projects on the Eldorado National Forest; Stewardship contracting is a tool to implement these projects.

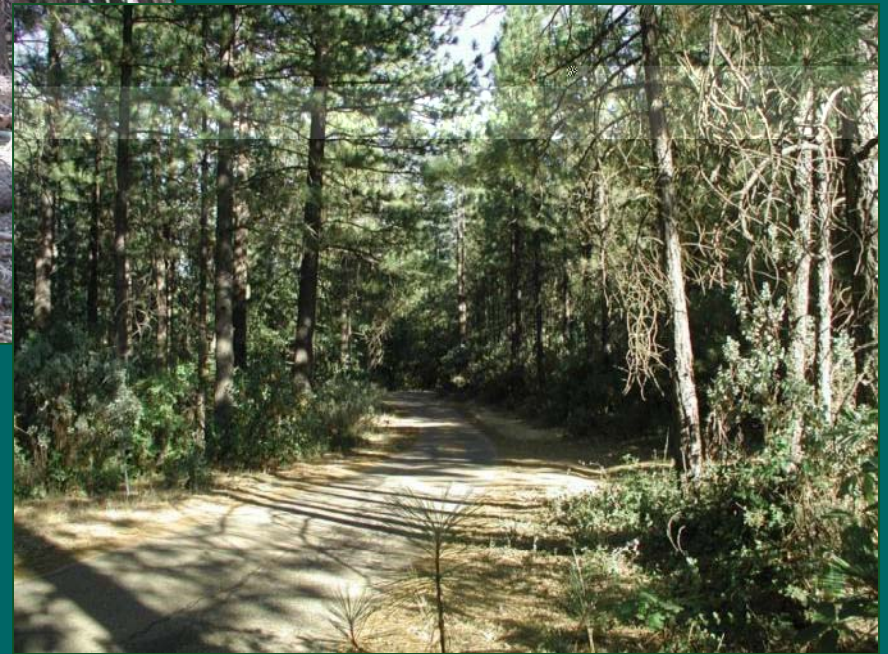
# What can we use stewardship contracting for?

- Road and trail maintenance or obliteration to restore or maintain water quality
- Soil productivity
- Prescribed fire to improve forest health or wildlife habitat
- Removing vegetation for forest health or fuel reduction
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control noxious weeds





*Stewardship contracting can help us reduce fuels and tree density to improve forest health and resilience*





## *Stewardship contracting provides an opportunity:*

- To accelerate mechanical fuel treatment and thinning to meet fuel reduction objectives
- To exchange goods for services: product value from thinning offsets the costs of service work.
- To improve efficiency: by combining commercial thinning and “service” work in one contract to treat hazardous fuels and improve forest health.
- To award contracts based on best value to the Government: considering price and technical approach, capability, past performance, local workforce, and small business.
- To retain excess receipts: excess product value can be used to pay for other approved stewardship projects.



# Two Stewardship Contract Types

## ■ Integrated Resource Contracts - Products

Product value equals or exceeds costs of service work; no additional outside funding needed to pay for service work

Patterned after 2400-6(T) Timber Sale Contracts

## ■ Integrated Resource Service Contracts

Service contracts that includes product removal

Service cost exceeds product value; appropriated funds or retained receipts used to pay for excess cost

Patterned after Federal Acquisition Regulations service contracts

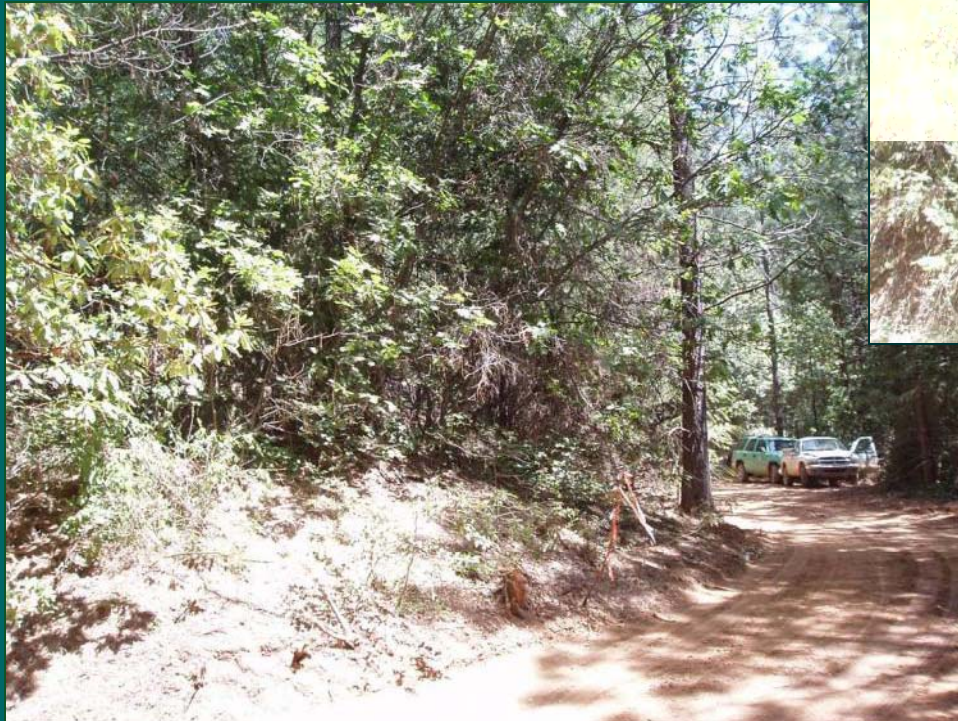
# **Eldorado National Forest Fuel Reduction Stewardship Project Examples Treating Fuels in the Wildland/Urban Interface**



**In collaboration with  
El Dorado County Firesafe Council; Communities;  
Fire Departments**



## Forest Conditions Before Treatment





# During Treatment

Removing small ladder fuel trees and commercial thinning







Thinning Phase



Removing biomass and sawtimber  
from the woods in one operation



Biomass piled  
at the landing for  
future utilization





## Plantation Mastication

“Before” - not masticated



“After” – masticated





## Masticating or shredding brush





After Treatment



Before  
and  
After





Tree #1



Before and after



# So... what are the benefits of Stewardship?

- Forest floor fuel and ladder fuel treated more cheaply and sooner than using conventional timber sales followed by service contracts
- Most projects are completed within 2-3 years
- Forest Service prepares one contract instead of two or more
- Best value discussions can result in lower costs
- Can get more acres done - not relying solely on appropriated public funds for contracts
- Feedback from the public is positive
- Provides jobs for small businesses
- Contractors like it – substantially less up front cash requirements than timber sale contracts and opportunity to diversify profit and risk





Our goal is to improve forest health and resiliency to wildfire by turning this....





....into this

